

Dualistic interactionism is defined as follows:

Dualistic Interactionism =df. (i) dualism is true, (ii) mental states sometimes cause material states, and (iii) material states sometimes cause mental states.

Physical indeterminism is defined as follows:

Physical indeterminism =df. given the physical laws of nature and a complete physical state of the universe at a time, the physical state of the universe at any future time is *not* physically necessary.

Thus, the dualist can argue as follows:

1	Indeterminism is true.
2	If indeterminism is true, then physical states and the laws of nature do not necessitate every subsequent future state.
3	If physical states and the laws of nature do not necessitate every subsequent future state, then it is physically possible for mental states to influence subsequent future states.
4	It is physically possible for mental states to influence subsequent future states.

The rationale behind (3) is that while the physical laws of nature determine probabilities, the mind *chooses* between these probabilities. For example, suppose there is a 50% chance you will come to class and a 50% chance you won't. The idea behind (3) is that since the physical laws of nature do not determine a single outcome, the mind influences which of the two physical outcomes happen.

However, despite the plausibility of the argument above, (3) is somewhat questionable. Even if indeterminism is true and a physical state plus the laws of nature do not physically necessitate subsequent physical states, mental states do not influence subsequent future states. Here is why:

1	The physical laws of nature are precise even though they are probabilistic.
2	Mental states do not make a difference to how physical probabilities are determined. These probabilities accommodate random physical behavior and not mental behavior.
3	Thus, either physical theory is false or dualistic interactionism is false.
4	Physical theory is not false.
5	Therefore, dualistic interactionism is false.